

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

Yoandy F Morales,

Plaintiff

v.

William Hutchings, et. al.,

Defendants

Case No. 2:21-cv-00944-JAD-BNW

**Order Dismissing
and Closing Case**

Plaintiff Yoandy F. Morales brings this civil-rights lawsuit to redress constitutional violations that he claims he suffered while incarcerated at Southern Desert Correctional Center. On December 17, 2021, this court dismissed Morales's claims with leave to amend by January 18, 2021.¹ The court warned Morales that this case would be dismissed and closed if he failed to file an amended complaint by that deadline.² Morales neither filed an amended complaint by that deadline nor moved for an extension of time to do so.

The law permits a district court to dismiss an action based on a party's failure to comply with a court order.³ In determining whether to dismiss an action on this ground, the court must consider: (1) the public's interest in expeditious resolution of litigation; (2) the court's need to manage its docket; (3) the risk of prejudice to the defendants; (4) the public policy favoring disposition of cases on their merits; and (5) the availability of less drastic alternatives.⁴

¹ ECF No. 3.

² *Id.* at 8.

³ *See Ferdik v. Bonzelet*, 963 F.2d 1258, 1260–61 (9th Cir. 1992) (dismissal for failure to comply with an order requiring amendment of complaint).

⁴ *In re Phenylpropanolamine Prod. Liab. Litig.*, 460 F.3d 1217, 1226 (9th Cir. 2006) (quoting *Malone v. U.S. Postal Serv.*, 833 F.2d 128, 130 (9th Cir. 1987)).

1 The first two factors, the public’s interest in expeditiously resolving this litigation and the
2 court’s interest in managing its docket, weigh in favor of dismissal of the plaintiff’s claims. The
3 third factor, risk of prejudice to defendants, also weighs in favor of dismissal because a
4 presumption of injury arises from the occurrence of unreasonable delay in filing a pleading
5 ordered by the court or prosecuting an action.⁵ The fourth factor—the public policy favoring
6 disposition of cases on their merits—is greatly outweighed by the factors favoring dismissal.

7 The fifth factor requires the court to consider whether less drastic alternatives can be used
8 to correct the party’s failure that brought about the court’s need to consider dismissal.⁶ Courts
9 “need not exhaust every sanction short of dismissal before finally dismissing a case, but must
10 explore possible and meaningful alternatives.”⁷ Because this action cannot proceed until and
11 unless Morales files an amended complaint, the only alternative is to enter a second order setting
12 another deadline. But the reality of repeating an ignored order is that it often only delays the
13 inevitable and squanders finite resources along the way. The circumstances here do not indicate
14 that this case will be an exception: there is no hint that Morales needs additional time nor
15 evidence that he did not receive the court’s order. Setting another deadline is not a meaningful
16 alternative given these circumstances. So the fifth factor favors dismissal.

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19 ⁵ See *Anderson v. Air West*, 542 F.2d 522, 524 (9th Cir. 1976).

20 ⁶ *Yourish v. Cal. Amplifier*, 191 F.3d 983, 992 (9th Cir. 1999) (explaining that considering less
21 drastic alternatives *before* the party has disobeyed a court order does not satisfy this factor);
22 accord *Pagtalunan v. Galaza*, 291 F.3d 639, 643 & n.4 (9th Cir. 2002) (explaining that “the
23 persuasive force of” earlier Ninth Circuit cases that “implicitly accepted pursuit of last drastic
alternatives prior to disobedience of the court’s order as satisfying this element[.]” i.e., like the
“initial granting of leave to amend coupled with the warning of dismissal for failure to
comply[.]” have been “eroded” by *Yourish*).

⁷ *Henderson v. Duncan*, 779 F.2d 1421, 1424 (9th Cir. 1986).

1 Having thoroughly weighed these dismissal factors, I find that they weigh in favor of
2 dismissal. IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that **THIS ACTION IS DISMISSED** for failure to
3 file an amended complaint by the court-ordered deadline, leaving no claims pending, and for
4 failure to state a claim in the original complaint. The Clerk of Court is directed to **ENTER**
5 **JUDGMENT** accordingly and **CLOSE THIS CASE**. **No other documents may be filed in**
6 **this now-closed case.**

7 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the application to proceed *in forma pauperis* without
8 having to prepay the filing fee [ECF No. 1] is **GRANTED**. Morales need not pay an initial
9 installment fee, prepay fees or costs or provide security for fees or costs, but he is still required to
10 pay the full \$350 filing fee under 28 U.S.C. § 1915, as amended. This full filing fee remains due
11 and owing even though this case is being dismissed.

12 In order to ensure that Morales pays that filing fee, IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the
13 Nevada Department of Corrections must forward payments from the account of **Yoandy F.**
14 **Morales, #1201578** to the Clerk of the United States District Court, District of Nevada, 20% of
15 the preceding month's deposits (in months that the account exceeds \$10.00) until the full \$350
16 filing fee has been paid for this action. The Clerk is directed to SEND copies of this order to the
17 Finance Division of the Clerk's Office and to the attention of **Chief of Inmate Services for the**
18 **Nevada Department of Corrections**, P.O. Box 7011, Carson City, NV 89702.

19 Dated: January 26, 2022

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21 U.S. District Judge Jennifer A. Dorsey
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